

The glass and crystal loop

Pays de Bitche - Meisenthal



Un verrier en action (G.Rebmeister)

A forest and urban walk to discover the glassworks and the crystal factory, know-how of the Northern Vosges!

"While I was leaving the Fountain of Coetlosquet and its smooth and steady flow, I perceived movement further down the road. Two deer crossed the path. I approached then without a sound when another arrived. A young man, squealing in search of his mother. I froze immediately; He stood for a moment on the road, looking around for his companions on his frail legs before finally leaving in their wake, without even noticing me. A.Serylo, PNRVN.

Useful information

Practice : Walking

Duration : 4 h

Length : 12.6 km

Trek ascent : 336 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

Themes : Histoire & patrimoine, Savoir-faire

Trek

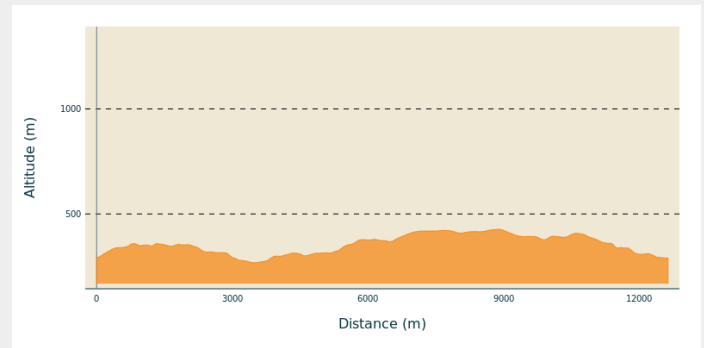
Departure : Parking place Émile Gallé,
Meisenthal

Arrival : Parking place Émile Gallé,
Meisenthal

Markings :  Club Vosgien

Cities : 1. Meisenthal
2. Saint-Louis-lès-Bitche
3. Goetzenbruck
4. Mouterhouse
5. Wingen-sur-Moder

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 268 m Max elevation 427 m

From Place Émile Gallé car park, turn left into the Mairie street and continue along the cemetery street following the red ring.

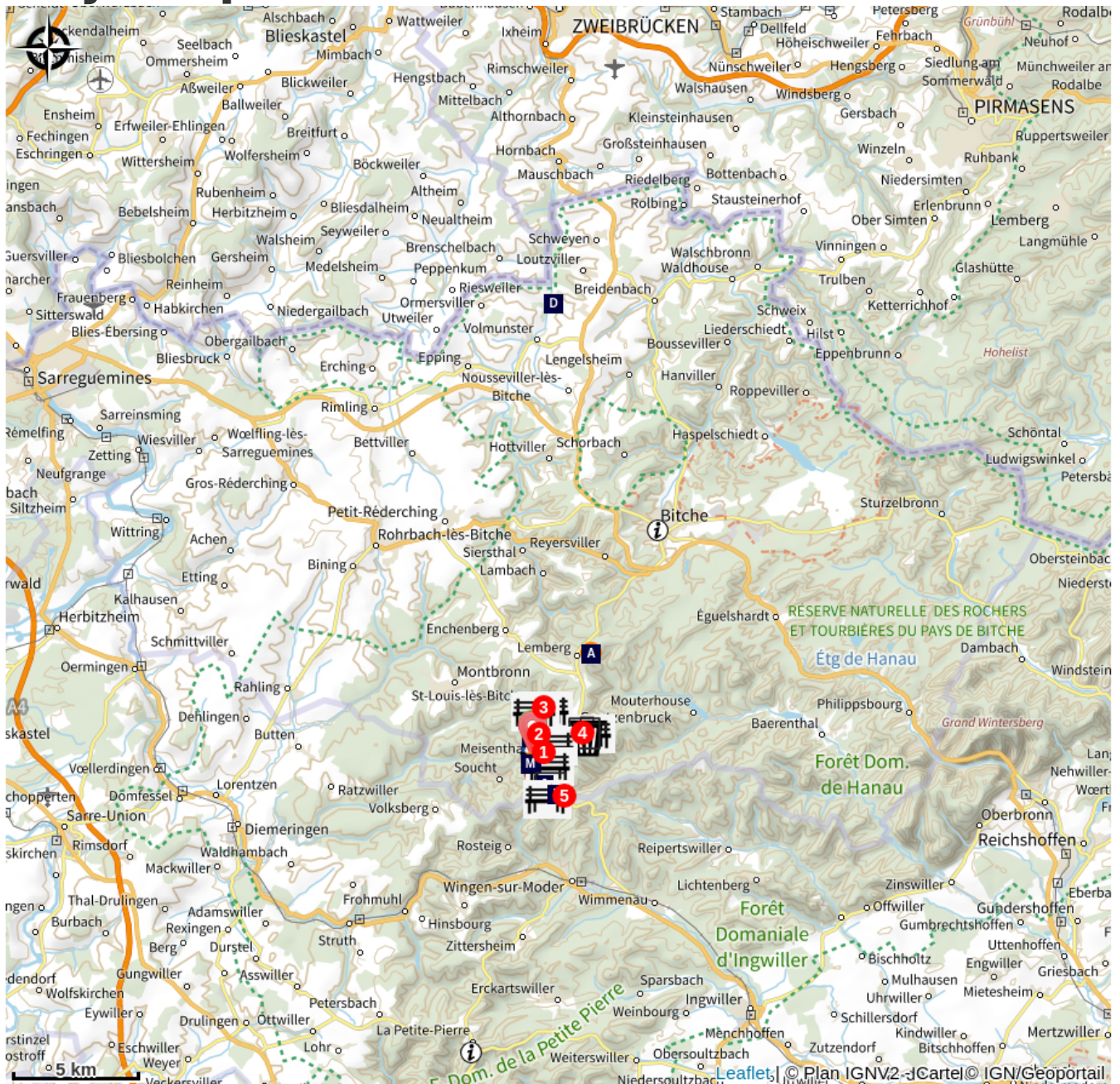
Cross the D83 to get to Schieresthal street in front. At the end of the bend, take the forest path then turn right after the last dwelling to join the Coëtlosquet fountain then the Georgel Oak.




Continue on the path in front marked yellow cross that leads to Saint-Louis-lès-Bitche. A small path descending to the left makes it possible to catch the main street and to make a small stop at the garden of glassmakers. The path passes in front of the church of Saint-Louis and goes down to La Grande Place Crystal Museum Saint-Louis. Continue on Goetzenbruck street (D37a) following the green disk. After the exit sign of the village, climb the path on the left.

In Goetzenbruck, go to the center of the village. Turn right on rue de Bitche (D37) and continue on rue d'Ingwiller following the yellow triangle towards the Stone of the Twelve Apostles. After the church, turn left into rue Saint-Hubert and follow the yellow triangle <http://www.parc-vosges-nord.fr/Geotrek/trianglejaune.png> to the Stone of the Twelve Apostles.

Cross the D37 carefully then go to the Colonne following the yellow cross and continue to the Meisenthal Glass Site. Return Emile Gallé square by the street of the town hall.

On your path...



- | | |
|---|---|
|  Ondine Falls (A) |  Saint-Louis parish church (B) |
|  Crystal Museum from Saint-Louis-lès-Bitche (C) |  Site of the Moulin d'Eschviller, Volmunster (D) |
|  Meisenthal cemetery (E) |  Oak Georgel (F) |
|  Lancy Chateau (G) |  Fountain of Coëtlosquet (H) |
|  Stone of the Twelve Apostles (K) |  Colonne Shelter (J) |
|  Meisenthal Glass Heritage Site (M) |  The Three Stones (L) |
| |  Museum of Glass and Crystal from Meisenthal (N) |

All useful information

Advices

Carte IGN : 3714 ET

À la Colonne, possibilité de se rendre aux Trois Pierre en suivant le triangle rouge.
Au retour, emprunter la route forestière du Dreipeterstein pour retrouver le chemin balisé croix jaune.

How to come ?

Transports

- Transport autocar TIM, lignes 105 (Enchenberg - Bitche) et 134 (Enchenberg - Wingen). Plus d'infos sur : <http://www.infotim57.fr/>

Access

From Bitche, take the D662 direction Sarreguemines, then turn right on the D37 direction Lemberg. Continue on the D37 then turn right on the D83 towards Meisenthal.

Advised parking

Parking place Émile Gallé, Meisenthal

i Information desks

Tourist Office of Hanau - La Petite Pierre

2A rue du Château, 67290 La Petite-Pierre

tourisme@hanau-lapetitepierre.alsace

Tel : +33 (0)3 88 70 42 30

<http://www.tourisme.hanau-lapetitepierre.alsace/>



Tourist Office of the Pays de Bitche

2 avenue du Général De Gaulle, 57230 Bitche

contact@tourisme-paysdebitche.fr

Tel : +33 (0)3 87 06 16 16

<http://www.tourisme-paysdebitche.fr/>



On your path...



Ondine Falls (A)

Was originally called Wasserfelsen. At the top, you can discover an old wash house. The large retaining wall was built around 1860 during the construction of the Lemberg-Bitche railway line. From there, the stream flows on imposing sandstone slabs to form beautiful waterfalls, particularly impressive in winter. The thin stream of water forms at this level the very first beginnings of the Zinzel of the North.

Attribution : PNRVN

Saint-Louis parish church (B)

Built between 1897 and 1902 by an architect-conservator of historical monuments of Alsace, Charles Winkler, this pink sandstone church of a particular architectural style is of neo-Romanesque style. Its funding came mainly from the Manufacture and the Coëtlosquet family.

Crystal Museum from Saint-Louis-lès-Bitche (C)

[The Saint-Louis glassworks founded in Moselle in 1586, daily sign crystal pieces - glass services, vases, chandeliers, lamps and furniture - made by master glassmakers and master cutters counting among the Best Workers of France. More info here. The site is part of the network of Terrestrial Stars.](#)

[Web](#)



Site of the Moulin d'Eschviller, Volmunster (D)

The site of the mill of Eschviller proposes several facets of a natural and cultural inheritance.

Above all, it tells the story of a rural territory, its inhabitants and the way in which they have exploited and still exploit their natural resources. More info here.

[Web](#)

Attribution : <http://www.lorraineaucoeur.com>



Meisenthal cemetery (E)

This cemetery, located near the church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin of Meisenthal built in 1811, is one of the only cemeteries in the Pays de Bitche to have preserved a significant number of sculpted tombs of different styles, some of them even worked by master glassmakers.

Attribution : PNRVN - A.Serylo



Oak Georgel (F)

Or big oak

Attribution : PNRVN - A.Serylo



Lancy Chateau (G)

This private, troubadour-style castle with a park was built in the mid-19th century for the Lorin family, a shareholder in the Saint-Louis-lès-Bitche crystalworks. Louis Lorain and his son, who died in 1865, were directors of the Saint-Louis crystal factory. The castle, bought in 1902 by the director of the crystal factory and then expanded in 1906 a tower at the northeast corner. The chapel dedicated to Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs, was built in the middle of the 19th.



Fountain of Coëtlosquet (H)

Below a forest path is an old washhouse from 1788, consisting of two troughs carved into the rock and two washing boards. The steps, the low wall and the drainage channels are also made of sandstone. This washhouse is a spring created by the Coëtlosquet family, who ran the factory in Saint-Louis-lès-Bitche.

Attribution : PNRVN - A.Serylo

v (I)

This boundary marker delimiting Alsace and Lorraine would have been built during the Napoleonic period. However, the base would date from the Gallo-Roman period. It was nevertheless partly destroyed during the Second World War.



Colonne Shelter (J)

Shelter of the Column of Soucht

Attribution : PNRVN - A.Serylo

Stone of the Twelve Apostles (K)

Or Breitenstein. A Christianized monolith of red sandstone, 4.40 meters high, located at the crossroads of important roads dating back to the Merovingian or even Roman period, it seems to have always had a role as a border marker. The calvary surrounded by the two Marys that surmount it and the twelve apostles date from 1787.



The Three Stones (L)

Or Dreipeterstein. Located on the border between the Moselle and the Lower Rhine, the three red sandstone blocks bear the shields of the Duke of Lorraine, the Count of Hanau and perhaps also the Count of Nassau. Therefore, this place would have a very old border significance. Originally, the stones were a druidic altar.

Attribution : PNRVN - A.Serylo



Meisenthal Glass Heritage Site (M)

The House of Glass and Crystal represents the evolution of this art giving its noble name to Pays de Bitche. A symbol: This house was the original glass hall where Emile Gallé, head of the School of Arts at Nancy, started working with glass, making Meisenthal the cradle of Art Nouveau glass. Today, the museum is in memory of the local glass industry. After an audio-visual show, the guided visit shows you the techniques used in the 'technical room', followed by a visit to a sumptuous collection of Art Nouveau glass, notably masterpieces signed by Emile Gallé but also other masterpieces created by other famous glassmakers such as Desiré Christian and Eugene Kremer. An amazing moment awaits you in front of these splendid exhibits, most of which were created in the region.

[Web](#)

Attribution : M.Chérot

Museum of Glass and Crystal from Meisenthal (N)

Glass and Crystal Centre shows the development of this craft industry which gave acclaim to the Bitche region. It is highly symbolic: it houses the old glassworks where Emile Gallé, leader in the Nancy School was initiated in the art of glass, making Meisenthal the “cradle of Art Nouveau glass». Visitors will be astounded by these stunning items mostly created in the region.

[Web](#)